

Additional Task Forces and Study Committees

Plastics Cooperative Marketing Study

Southern Indiana Recycling Initiative, 1993-94

This regional study was commissioned through grant funds from the US EPA and the Indiana Department of Commerce to study and develop a cooperative marketing strategy for plastics recycling. Through the regional guidance of the Southern Indiana Recycling Initiative and coordinated by the Recycler's Trade Network, the contracted consultant, a detailed material flow study was presented in a 1994 final report. Numerous recommendations were noted in the potential building of a regional cooperative marketing strategy. Although the cooperative did not materialize, many of the participants benefited from the observations and recommendations of this study.

Construction and Demolition Recycling Task Force

Departments of Commerce and Environmental Management, 1996-97

Local private haulers and solid waste management districts requested this task force to explore the recyclability of construction and demolition debris. The task force organized eight open forums over 18 months to explore the various opportunities, barriers, and equipment needs of the c&d industry. Several sub-committees were developed to explore various issues:

- a) state and federal regulations that might restrict recycling of c&d material,
- b) state tax incentives that could encourage new investment in the industry,
- c) market development barriers and opportunities, and
- d) collection and processing concerns and requirements.

Twenty Eight members representing various interests in the c&d industry developed final reports from these sub-committees and presented the observations and concerns at the Indiana Recycling Coalition conference in May 1997.

Southern Indiana Recycling Economic Development Study

Southern Indiana Recycling Initiative, 1996-97

The purpose of this IDoC funded study was to research the availability of recyclable materials within the Southern Indiana region as a tool for retention of existing businesses, the attraction of new businesses, and the creation of new recycling opportunities. Extensive surveys were developed and implemented to explore the availability of market ready recyclables. An interested party list of businesses were paired with available markets of recyclables. The study generated few solid recommendations, due to a diffuse and varied material generation base, and vast distances between generators and end-users. However, a primary benefit of this contracted study was the increased communications between economic development offices and local solid waste management districts. The Southern Indiana Recycling Initiative, a committee of the Indiana Recycling Coalition, continues to utilize the results of the study to explore new business opportunities within the region.

Pay-As-You-Throw Task Force
Department of Environmental Management, 1997-98

This task force was developed at the request of various cities and towns to study and advise methods to implement new trash collection pricing scenarios that encourage residents to recycling. By providing comprehensive solid waste services including composting and recycling, and charging residents by volume of waste disposed, an economic incentive is built into the system to provide incentive for recycling. Four statewide workshops were presented, with over 60 communities participating. With observations from this task force and the resulting workshops, IDEM applied for and received grant funds from the US EPA to sustain these efforts through a hired professional contractor. This EPA funded activity continues through September 2001.

Plastics Marketing Task Force
Departments of Commerce and Environmental Management, 1998-99

As plastic markets become more selective and sensitive to contaminants, a task force was developed to research industry concerns and standards, and translate these concerns to various post-consumer collection programs. This open forum task force met for six meetings, touring the Ball State plastics research center, and discussing collection concerns with various processors and end-users. The task force ended its mission through a workshop presentation at the Indiana Recycling Coalition annual conference. One of the resulting recommendations was the need for a simple public education campaign of collection contamination issues. The Recycle Right web-based public education campaign was developed to satisfy this recommendation, and resulted in proving public quality collection advise on all major post-consumer recyclables. The Recycle Right Web site can be accessed at: www.indianarecycling.org

Full Cost Accounting Study
Garbage Collection, Recycling & Yard Waste Service Costs in Indiana
Indiana Institute on Recycling, 1998

IDEM commissioned this study to develop a comprehensive report on the recycling and solid waste collection activities of cities and towns throughout Indiana. The Institute surveyed 270 cities and towns and received an 89% response rate (240 communities). The results of the study indicate that the average Indiana household pays \$7.75 per month for solid waste disposal and recycling collection in 1997. The service fees varied through regions, from \$15 per month to \$5 per month. Observations were made regarding size of community and private vs. public service systems. Approximately 62% of Hoosier households are serviced by municipal employees, while the remaining 38% are serviced through private contractors. The study did not include rural non-collection households that illegally disposal of solid waste.

Foundry Sand Reuse Study
Foundrymans Association of Indiana, 1999-2000

An IDEM grant funded study through the Atlas foundation of Wabash County and the Indiana Cast Metals Association (INCMA). The resulting database and supporting documents demonstrates the viability of foundry sand reuse without environmental harm. A summary of the report entitled *2001 Beneficial Sand Reuse Booklet* can be found on the INCMA Web-site: www.incma.org